



## Idaho's Public Computer Center Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)

Expanding connections to workforce training and learning in Idaho libraries.

### BTOP Award Period

August 2010 to December 2012

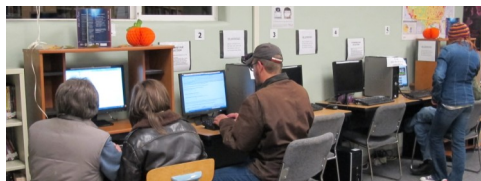
### BTOP Budget

Federal funds: \$1,907,531

Matching funds: 942,815

Total budget: \$2,850,346

Over 20% project match provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, augmented with in-kind and resource contributions from Idaho Commission for Libraries and key BTOP partners.



**@online**  
**@your library®**

### New BTOP-funded online resources available statewide at [lili.org](http://lili.org):



#### LearningExpress Library:

Study guides and practice tests for GED, SAT, ACT, GRE, CLEP and more; job-skill tutorials; career certification preparation; and computer skills training. Used by Labor and ABE clients as well.



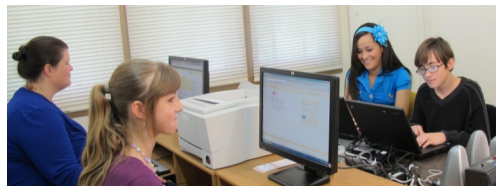
#### Scout Video Collections:

Short videos/animations for every school subject and full-length IdahoPTV programs about Idaho for K-12 student use.



#### Maximize Your Job Search:

Online workshop and workbook with tips for networking, the hidden job market, using social media, and more, in English and Spanish. Developed by the Idaho Department of Labor (DOL).



### Idahoans from Bonners Ferry to Preston report that access to computers and broadband at the library is their connection to:

- "The job I want."
- "Business related information."
- "Study for my CDL [commercial drivers license]."
- "GED prep."
- "Interview online for a new job."
- "Scholarships."
- "Information on health and wellness."
- "Movies, games, and homework help."
- "Great reading and resources."
- "Getting my college degree."
- "Practice test that is a lifesaver."

### Statewide Promotion

- Web
- TV & Radio PSAs, English and Spanish
- Newspapers
- Billboards

### Public Awareness Materials

- Posters
- Window clings
- Computer wallpaper
- Fold-up wallet cards
- Table tents
- Bookmarks
- Web widgets

## Library user access and training



- 143 library locations in Idaho.
- In 70% of Idaho's rural communities, the library is the only free Internet access.
- Over 90% of Idaho's libraries offer computer and other technical training.

## Library and partner training

- **Fall 2010:** Hands-on training for public libraries so they each could apply and qualify for federal E-Rate support to sustain ongoing Internet connectivity.
- **Spring 2011:** Statewide workshops for libraries and their community partners provided hands-on access to the new online resources.
- **Winter 2012:** "Credible Connections" workshops at 23 locations around the state provided opportunities for 232 librarians, DOL and ABE staff members, economic development partners, and community leaders to network and explore resources that can be leveraged to address local economic development.

## Digital literacy training

Building library users' Internet and computer skills, helping them use the online resources that are available, and educating them in the safe and ethical use of technology will be a major focus moving forward on the BTOP project.

In summer 2011, Idaho Youth Corps (IYC) participants gained experience as digital literacy coaches in over a dozen libraries, helping library users use computers and find online job search and training resources. Summer 2012 saw an expansion of the IYC program, with 29 youth participating in 27 libraries. In 2012 we also worked with the Idaho Office for Refugees to train refugees to deliver digital literacy training and one-on-one coaching in several languages. This initiative is in place from April 2012 through November 2012.

## In 54 of Idaho's least connected libraries: the numbers

- 11 Mbps Internet connectivity average, up from 1.5 Mbps
- 535 computers installed to date
- 18% increase in number of users of public access technology in 2011

**Broadband connectivity is sustained through local funding (25%) and federal E-Rate support (75%).**

